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U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION REPORT

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



308322

I. HEADING

DATE: August 28, 2000

SUBJECT: Pollution Report for the McNichol Mercury Spill Emergency Response, Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan

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POLREP 1 - Initial : with map (See Attachment: Map1)

Start Date: August 24, 2000

II. BACKGROUND

Site No.:	Pending
Delivery Order Number:	NA
Response Authority:	CERCLA
CERCLIS ID Number:	NA
NPL Status:	Not on NPL
MDEQ Notification:	Yes
Latitude/Longitude:	N 42° 24' 51.48", W 83° 16' 46.8"
Start Date:	August 24, 2000
Completion Date:	Pending

III. SITE INFORMATION

A. Incident Category

CERCLA-Emergency Response

B. Site Description

1. Site Location

The McNichol Mercury Spill site is located on the southeast corner of West McNichol Street and Wormer Street, Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan. The McNichol Mercury Spill site encompasses an area approximately 25 feet long by 10 feet wide and includes Wormer Street and the sidewalk near 24251 West McNichol Street. A former dentist's

office is located at 24251 West McNichols Street. Private residences border the site to the east and south, and commercial property borders the site to the west and north.

2. Description of Threat

A resident from an apartment complex located near 24251 West McNichol Street noticed what appeared to be elemental mercury on the street and surrounding sidewalk. The resident informed the City of Detroit and the Detroit Fire Department (DFD), Engine Company 54, responded to the scene. The resident requested assistance from the U.S. EPA in assessing the situation.

IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION

A. Current Situation:

The DFD's cleanup contractor, Marine Pollution Control (MPC), vacuumed the area with a mercury vacuum cleaner and there are no visible signs of mercury in the street or on the sidewalk. The public areas of the nearby apartment complex have been screened with a Jerome mercury vapor analyzer (Jerome) and all readings are at background levels. The former dentist's office, located at 24251 West McNichol Street has been screened with a Jerome and a Lumex mercury analyzer (Lumex). The Lumex results ranged from 1 to 38 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) on the first floor, 4 to 16 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ on the second floor and from 12 to 44 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in the basement.

B. Actions Taken:

On Thursday, August 24, 2000, at approximately 1800 hours, START mobilized to the McNichol Mercury Spill (MMS) site. START met with the members of the DFD who responded to the incident. The DFD had scooped up the elemental mercury with paper, and placed it in a pop can. The DFD escorted START to the location of the spill to further assess the situation.

START inspected the area and discovered multiple small "pockets" of visible mercury beads on the sidewalk and in the street. START monitored the general "public" areas of the nearby apartment complex with an Jerome and all readings were at background levels. U.S. EPA recommended that the DFD mobilize its cleanup contractor and clean the spill as soon as possible to avoid migration of the elemental mercury (e.g. tracking, rain, children, etc.). The DFD immediately mobilized its cleanup contractor, MPC. START and the DFD Fire Marshall Division remained on scene for support.

Several concerned nearby residents requested that their homes be screened for mercury contamination and START screened all requested homes with a Jerome. All readings were at background levels in the homes that were monitored. START monitored the perimeter of the dentist's office with a Jerome and elevated levels were present near the entrances to the office. At approximately 2030 hours, a resident informed START that she took a cabinet from the junk pile and was worried that it may be contaminated. START monitored the cabinet and elevated readings were indicated inside the cabinet. The readings from the apartment were at background levels. The cabinet and its contents were moved outside to be aired out and cleaned.

At approximately 2100 hours, MPC arrived on scene and began cleaning the area. The manager for the apartment complex arrived and START screened the material that the manager took from the junk pile. All results were at background levels. START rechecked the cabinet and contents taken from the earlier resident and results were at background levels, except for a binocular case which was disposed of with other contaminated material generated on site.

On Friday August 25, 2000, at approximately 0015 hours, MPC finished cleaning the area and START inspected the scene. No elemental mercury was visible. All site derived contaminated material was taken to the DFDs, Engine Company 54 firehouse, and put behind a locked fence pending disposal approval.

On Friday, August 25, 2000, at approximately 1130 hours, a representative from the realty company and the building's owner were on site to grant U.S. EPA and START access to the dentist's office. At approximately 1145 hours, START monitored the dentist's office with a Jerome and the results ranged from 3 to 18 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ on the first floor, 4 to 8 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ on the second floor and 5 to 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in the basement. START then screened the dentist's office with the Lumex and the results ranged from 1 to 38 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ on the first floor, 4 to 16 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ on the second floor and 12 to 44 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in the basement. Higher readings were obtained from the carpeting on all floors and from brooms located in the basement.

C. Next Steps

Continue coordination with the Detroit Health Department to monitor the owner's cleanup of the building.

D. Key Issues

None.

V. **COST INFORMATION**

Estimated site costs as of August 7, 2000

START	\$ 3,000.00
U.S. EPA	\$ 1,000.00